

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for generating a question document and an answer document from a database
5 of questions, the database of questions and answers contained in an extensible markup language document, wherein the questions and answers are divided into sections, the method comprising:

creating a first Document Object Model (DOM) tree from the extensible markup
language document, said DOM tree containing nodes for each of the sections and each question
and answer in the database;

10 prompting a user to indicate a number for each of the sections, said number representing
how many questions from each of the sections should be chosen;

randomly selecting a number of nodes from each of the sections in said first DOM tree;

making a second DOM tree from said randomly selected nodes; and

refining said second DOM tree into a question document and an answer document.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the extensible markup language document containing
said database of questions and answers is created by porting a word processing document into
extensible markup language format using a predefined Document Type Definition (DTD).

20 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the extensible markup language document is in a format
defined by a DTD, said DTD splitting the questions and answers into sections, defining the
questions as elements and the answers as attributes to said elements.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said refining includes applying an stylesheet language transformation to said second DOM tree to get the question document and the answer document.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said stylesheet language transformation creates the question document in a web presentation language and the answer document in said web presentation language.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said creating includes creating a first DOM tree from the extensible markup language document using a parsing tool.

7. An apparatus for generating a question document and an answer document from a database of questions, the database of questions and answers contained in an Extensible Markup Language (extensible markup language) document, wherein the questions and answers are divided into sections, the apparatus comprising:

- a first DOM tree creator;
- a user prompter coupled to said first DOM tree creator;
- a random node selector coupled to said user prompter;
- a second DOM tree maker coupled to said random node selector; and
- a second DOM tree refiner coupled to said second DOM tree maker.

8. An apparatus for generating a question document and an answer document from a database of questions, the database of questions and answers contained in an Extensible Markup

Language (extensible markup language) document, wherein the questions and answers are divided into sections, the apparatus comprising:

means for creating a first DOM tree from the extensible markup language document, said DOM tree containing nodes for each of the sections and each question and answer in the database;

means for prompting a user to indicate a number for each of the sections, said number representing how many questions from each of the sections should be chosen;

means for randomly selecting a number of nodes from each of the sections in said first DOM tree;

means for making a second DOM tree from said randomly selected nodes; and

means for refining said second DOM tree into a question document and an answer document.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the extensible markup language document containing said database of questions and answers is created by porting a word processing document into extensible markup language format using a predefined Document Type Definition (DTD).

10. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the extensible markup language document is in a format defined by a DTD, said DTD splitting the questions and answers into sections, defining the questions as elements and the answers as attributes to said elements.

11. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said refining includes applying a stylesheet language transformation to said second DOM tree to get the question document and the answer document.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said stylesheet language transformation creates the question document in a web presentation language and the answer document in said web presentation language.

5

13. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said means for creating includes means for creating a first DOM tree from the extensible markup language document using a parsing tool.

14. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for generating a question document and an answer document from a database of questions, the database of questions and answers contained in an Extensible Markup Language (extensible markup language) document, wherein the questions and answers are divided into sections, the method comprising:

creating a first DOM tree from the extensible markup language document, said DOM tree containing nodes for each of the sections and each question and answer in the database;

prompting a user to indicate a number for each of the sections, said number representing how many questions from each of the sections should be chosen;

randomly selecting a number of nodes from each of the sections in said first DOM tree;

making a second DOM tree from said randomly selected nodes; and

refining said second DOM tree into a question document and an answer document.